

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the conditions laid down for making investment in Air India together with the routes in respect of which such permission has been given?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) The Government has approved in principle, bringing down the equity of the Government of India in Air India to 40% through a process of disinvestment by sale of 40% of equity to a strategic partner, upto 10% to employees and the balance by sale to financial institutions and/or on the share market. In the event of the strategic partner being a joint venture with an element of foreign holding, which can be of a foreign airlines also, the arrangement should be such as would limit foreign holding in Air India to a maximum of 26% of the total equity.

Bhopal Airport as an International Airport

1722. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that seven domestic airports were declared as International Airports recently but Bhopal Airport was not included in the list despite being most Centrally located airport in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government will review its decision and grant International Airport status to Bhopal Airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARADYADAV): (a) and (b) The seven domestic airports which have facilities for operation of Medium Capacity Long Range (MCLR) and Small Capacity Long Range (SCLR) air craft and also international traffic potential have recently been declared as international airports.

(c) The Government has no proposal, at present, to declare Bhopal as an international airport.

Expansion of Crisis Management Group

1723. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

[8th August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to expand the Crisis Management Group (CMG) in view of the Kandhar hijacking incident last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have any contingency plans to deal with aviation security crisis; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (fa) to (c) Composition of the Crisis Management Group (CMG) is included in the Contingency Plan to deal with unlawful interference with civil aviation, which is being reviewed. Since it is a classified document, it will not be in public interest to disclose its details.

Rain Repellent System for IAs A-380 Aircraft

1724. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to states

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned No rain repellent system in IAs A-300 aircraft as reported in the 'Pioneer' dated 19th July, 2000;

(b) if so, whether rain repellent system da not exist at Airbus 300 aircraft making it difficult for pilots to manoeuvre the aircraft during monsoon;

(c) if so, the reasons of not providing this system in A-300 aircraft;

(d) whether there are chances of mishaps due to non-availability of this system; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rain repellent system exists on Airbus A-300 aircraft but the manufacture, M/s. Airbus Industries with the permission of their regulatory authority of DGAC, France, allowed deactivation of the rain repellent system, but made it mandatory that both windshield wipers should be serviceable all the time.